

HEIGHTS Financial Sustainability Study Overview

Higher Education Institutions Generating Holistic and Transformative Solutions

Higher Education Institution Engagement in Financial Sustainability (FS)

February 2024

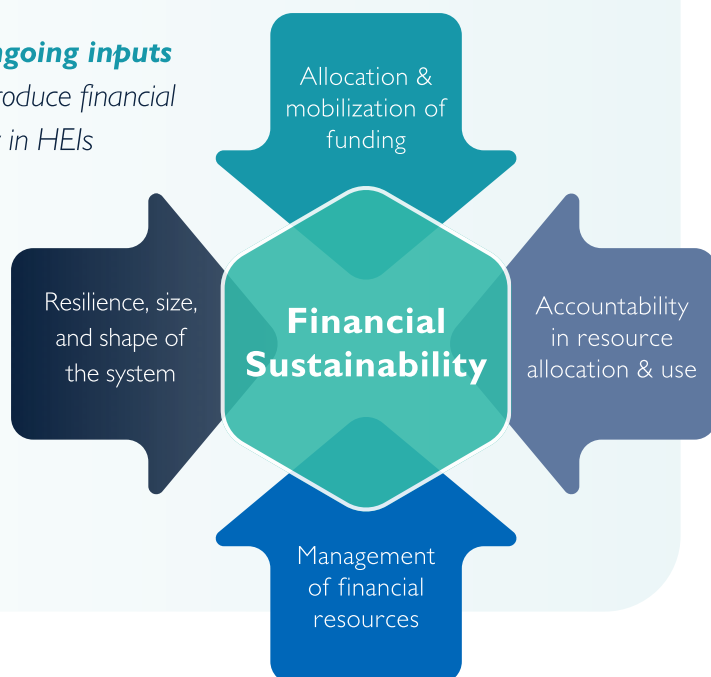
ABOUT HEIGHTS FS

HEIGHTS-FS aims to produce evidence-informed strategies that can strengthen financial sustainability in higher education (HE) systems in the contexts of low- and middle-income countries. This study analyzes financial operations, risk management strategies, and how governments and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the countries under study mobilize public and private resources within a broader context of system-wide challenges and opportunities.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What **strategies** are governments and HEIs pursuing to **mobilize public and private resources to strengthen the financial sustainability of higher education systems** and institutions? What strategies are regarded to be most effective in the countries under study?

Figure 1: **Ongoing inputs** needed to produce financial sustainability in HEIs



QUICK STATS

FUNDER: USAID

YEARS ACTIVE: 2021-2024

PROJECT LEAD:
University of Notre Dame

PARTNERS:

- Resilient Africa Network (RAN) & University of Nairobi, Kenya (UoN)
- SMART CITY Universitas Indonesia (UI)
- Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)

PARTNERSHIP LOCATIONS



METHODS & ANALYSIS

HEIGHTS-FS is collecting data that will support the analysis of financing strategies by key stakeholders that engage in HE financing and is broken down into **three phases**:

Phase 1: Local partners reviewed existing literature on HEI financing and engaged in a selection of key stakeholders to better understand how available evidence impacts decision-making on HEI financing.

Phase 2: The SHARE team will host a systems thinking workshop with major actors in order to further specify sustainable financial strategies and barriers.

Phase 3: The SHARE team will tailor the study to be contextually relevant to partner countries and address research questions through the collection and analysis of data from key informant interviews (KIIs) and relevant financial documents. The SHARE team will conduct a validation workshop with stakeholders from the education ecosystem prior to a series of various dissemination events.

STUDY TIMELINE

Ecosystem Diagnostic

March 2022 -
August 2022

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), literature review, online surveys

Research Design Logistics

June 2022 - Dec. 2022

Systems workshops with key stakeholders and contextualization of research protocols, consent forms, and in-country Institutional Review Board (IRB) applications.

Qualitative Data Collections, Cleaning, & Coding

Jan. 2023 - Jul. 2023

Conduct KIIs and collect HEI-level financial data. Code and analyze data.

Final Analysis & Report Writing

Aug. 2023 - Apr. 2024

Compare, contrast, and interpret qualitative and quantitative findings; Prepare country level and cross-country reports and presentations.

Dissemination & Endline

Apr. 2024 - June 2024

Conduct evidence ecosystem endline KIIs and surveys; Disseminate research findings throughout the education ecosystem.

RESEARCH GOALS

HEIGHTS-FS seeks to inform USAID's education strategic planning, activity design, and professional development in the areas of the financial sustainability of higher education systems.

In service of this goal, this study aims to produce evidence-informed strategies to strengthen HEI financial practices within USAID partner countries.

The audience for the output of this study includes the following stakeholders: USAID Washington's Center for Education, USAID Missions in Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines, as well as other USAID Missions worldwide engaged in Higher Education activities, multilateral organizations funding higher education activities in low- and middle- income countries (LMICs), and the governments of the countries of study and other LMICs around the world.

Contact SHARE Project Manager **Edward Jurkovic** at ejurkovi@nd.edu to learn more about HEIGHTS.

ABOUT SHARE

The University of Notre Dame's Pulte Institute for Global Development is implementing the SHARE activity in partnership with local higher education and research institutions. Through SHARE and its partners, UND will advance USAID's Learning Priorities as a global good to improve education and learning outcomes as part of cooperative agreement No. 7200AA20CA00025. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Pulte Institute and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.